

VEHICLE CRIME STILL A PROBLEM

Across the county vehicle crime is one of the major issues being addressed by the police. The summer season usually bringing an increase in the incidents reported, especially theft from vehicles.

Many of these could have been avoided if due care had been taken when the owner left the vehicle and the following are a few ideas to help you reduce the risk of being a victim.

ARTICLES LEFT ON VIEW THAT TEMPT THE CRIMINAL

Many incidents are reported of windows broken to reach inside and take a Sat.nav. system, mobile phone, laptop computer, handbag, coat etc.

VEHICLES LEFT WITH WINDOWS OPEN

As above, anything then on display makes a quick and easy target.

NUMBER PLATES

The theft of number plates has grown considerably recently. They can be secured by changing to tamper proof screw's.

TOOLS LEFT IN COMERCIAL VEHICLES

Remove tools at night into a secure location. Black out windows so nothing can be seen inside. Ensure vehicle is alarmed and an immobiliser fitted. Fit security grills and security chests in the vehicle.

These are some of the measures than can be taken but the main thing to consider is to get the vehicle garaged at night. A case of '**out of site, out of mind**' as far as the criminal is concerned.

This is particularly good advice with the growing problems of metal theft. One of the items starting to be targeted is Catalytic Converters (part of the exhaust system) as they contain Valuable metals. With the soaring price of petrol, fuel theft may also become a problem so the same rule applies.

Taking the above steps will also give you better piece of mind when you are away from your vehicle.

LEFT ON SHOW, IT MAY WELL GO !

HOTSPOTS:-! Theft from Vehicles

NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH WEEK

The national neighbourhood watch week was celebrated across the county with a number of events taking place. The week proved a big success as the events prompted quite a number of people to consider starting up new schemes in their own road. Something which is of advantage to us all as the more streets involved the safer and nicer the area where we live becomes.

Those that were not able to get a scheme going at present, were given relevant crime prevention information. Once again the ringmaster scheme proved very popular with the public and a number of people signed up to join.

On behalf of everybody, a big thank you to those neighbourhood watch members who gave their time and made events such a success.

Please put in your diaries for next year that the neighbourhood watch week will again be the second week in June. Please contact your co-ordinator in good time to get something organised in your area.

Pictures and more information on this years events can be found on the new Police Community web site. www.safer-beds.org which was launched to coincide with National Neighbourhood Watch Week.

A GUIDE ON MAKING CALLS TO THE POLICE

1. Any person wishing to make a report to the police whether it be as a victim of crime or to pass on suspicions should in the first instance contact the
Call Handling Unit on Mid Beds 01234 841212 or South Beds 01582 401212.

In the event of threat to life, or property, (as in a crime is in progress) - then calls should be made by dialling 999

2. The Call Handling Unit is staffed 24hrs a day 7 days a week and the operators are trained in grading all calls and directing suitable responses. They are also able to forward messages to Police Staff with particular responsibilities i.e. Neighbourhood Police Officers etc.

3. A Street co-ordinator should not normally be asked by his or her watch group to make telephone calls on behalf of others, unless of course the injured party is unable to do so. If calling on behalf of someone else please make sure you have as much information as possible.

OPERATION SCORPION

The old Scorpion website has now been incorporated into the Bedfordshire police website. It provides a current snapshot of crime and policing activities and offers YOU the opportunity to play a vital role in the fight against crime.



www.bedfordshire.police.uk

WHATS GOING ON?

Sandra Murphy the police community safety manager is working closely with EDF energy on a plan to help protect the numerous electricity sub stations dotted around our neighbourhoods. They are vulnerable to vandalism and the present growing trend in metal theft for their copper content.

The impact on the local area if a sub station goes down can be a real problem. The initial thoughts are usually no TV, no Freezer but the impact can be much bigger if you have medical equipment you need to use at home. Plus an area with no power means no security or street lights.

The plan will be to encourage N/Watch groups to report anything suspicious and notify EDF accordingly. Once the final details are in place we will notify you all accordingly.

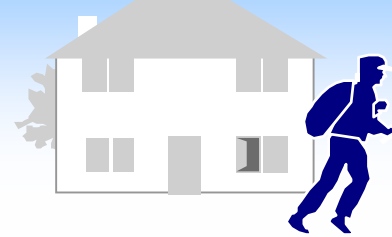
June Adamson, the new Mid. Beds. Police co-ordinator, is now getting out and about in the area. She would welcome calls from anyone needing N/W advice and can be contacted on-

Ph. 01582 473158

Email.

June.adamson@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk

BURGLARY



Burglary figures are still on the increase. While this is a worry looking at the overall figures when the method of entry is checked it shows so many of the incidents could have been avoided.

With the start of warmer weather many of the burglaries have been through open windows or patio doors. If you must go out and leave a window slightly open then ensure it has a restricter fitted so that it cannot be forced open to gain entry. Despite the repeated warnings that go out, failure to turn the key on PVC type doors still comes up fairly regularly as a method of entry and it is quite suprising the number of entries through wooden doors that were simply **not locked!**

A good quick check on your security is to go outside and see how you would get back into your house if you did not have a key.

Don't forget the criminal can be very resourceful!

DATA BASE

Thank you again to all scheme co-ordinators in Mid and South Beds who returned their re-registration forms.

The final date set has now passed and that has left quite a few gaps where schemes appear to have closed down. Those of you that read this will know the value of active schemes in both crime prevention and the feel good factor that a community spirit brings.

Please try to spread the word that anyone interest in starting a scheme only needs to contact one of the police co-ordinators for further details. If in doubt then Call Handling will always pass the details on.

CAN YOU HELP ?

If you feel you can spare some time to assist with putting info into envelopes, deliver leaflets in your area etc. and would like to volunteer then please contact either Brendan Murray or June Adamson on 01582 473158

All Neighbourhood Watch teams

Dear All

The South Beds. Steering Group are still trying to recruit more people for their committee. Meetings are held around a quarterly basis. The police co-ordinator also attends to assist with advice and information so it can be passed through the group down to the individual schemes. It doesn't take a lot of time and costs no money so if you can help, then please contact me and I will pass your details on.

Best regards to you all.

Brendan Murray
Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator
South Beds Area

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WHATS HAPPENING IN OUR GROUP.....